THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e) The Challiah Committee in its interim report has mentioned that in a system of commodity taxation, ad valorem duties are preferable to specific duties and has recommended switching over to ad valorem rates in respect of a number of commodities. However, the committee has stated that for administrative considerations, some commodities like petroleum products, tobacco products and textiles, coffee, tea, marble, etc. may continue to have specific rates.

In accordance with the Chelliah Committee's recommendations as a modest beginning in the Budget 1992-93, in respect of major non-ferrous metals namely copper, lead and zinc and products thereof, uniform ad valorem levy of 10 per cent was imposed in the place of specific rates of duties. Similarly, in respect of certain iron and steel items, a uniform excise duty of 10 per cent was imposed. Being a taxation matter, it is not possible to state at this stage the extent to which the recommendations are further implementable.

Customer Service in Banks

4243. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appeared in "Financial Express" dated 1st July, 1992 captioned "Customer Service Deteriorations";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the state of affairs in banks; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the level of customer service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government have seen the news item captioned 'Customer Service Deteriorating' which appehared in "Financial Express" dated 1st July, 1992.

(b) and (c) The need for improving Customer Service in banks is recognised. With this objective in view, the public sector banks have taken in the last few years several measures to improve the quality of their customer service. These measures broadly comprise creation of necessary infrastructural facilities to improve the speed of service, creation of internal and external grievances redressal machinery for prompt redressal of customer grievances and increased interface between the bank executives and their customers so as to promote mutual goodwill and understanding. Evolution of time norms for rendering common services, norms for rendering common services, provision of facilitation desks for customers' guidance in bigger branches, speedier collection of cheques, provision of nomination facilities to customers on deposit accounts, provision of complaint boxes in branches and constitution of customer service committees etc are some of the specific measures taken by the banks. Implementation of the various measures by the banks is also monitored by the Government and Reserve Bank of India on a continual basis.

Income Tax Exemption for Donation toward promotion of Eye Banks

4244. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Ministe of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend exemption under Income-Tax Act towards donation for funds promoting eye donations and eye banks; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) There

is no proposal under consideration for granting exemption under the Income-tax Act specifically for donations made to funds promoting eye donations and eye banks. However, donations to charitable institutions approved under section 80G are eligible for deduction at the rate of 50 percent. Subject to specific floor and ceiling limits. Any institution for promoting eye donations and eye banks can file application u/s. 80G, claiming to be a charitable institution. The application will be decided on merits on the facts and circumstances of the case.

(b) In view of (a) above, reply to this part is not necessary.

Fresh conditions issued by RBI for Loan waiver scheme

4245. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has issued fresh conditions for reimbursement of funds written off by banks under the loan waiver scheme of national front Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of circular of Reserve Bank of India dated 6th July, 1992 to Chairman and Managing Directors of all Public Sector Banks is at Statement.

Statement

Copy of Circular No. RPCD. NB. BC. 2/COB-31A|92-93 dated the 6th July, 1992 issued by Resever Bank of India, Rural Planning & Credit Department, Central Office, Bombay to The Chairman and Managing Directors of all Public Sector Banks

Dear Sir,

Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990

Please refer to our Circular RPCD. No. NB.BC.148|COB.31A|90-91 dated 28 June 1991 advising you to submit the claim application along with a certificate signed by a senior executive from the Head Office of your bank

2. It has now been decided that your bank should obtain and forward to us a certificate from the bank's auditors certifying that the debt relief was provided in accordance with the criteria laid down in ARDR Scheme 1990. Further, the write off of the amount of debt relief effected may be placed before the bank's board of directors for approval.

3. We shall be glad if you will please initiate action for an early compliance.

4. Please acknowledge receipt.

Irregularities in State Bank of Indore, Allahabad

4246. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of irregularites/fraud/wrong advancing committed in the Sate Bank of Indore, Allahabad Branch in Uttar Pradesh since its opening, to date;

(b) what are the details thereof, and the amount involved therein; and

(c) what action has been taken against guilty by the bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) State Bank of Indore has reported that one case of irregularities and one case of fraud involving an amount of Rs. 1.24 lacs and Rs. 1.22 lacs respectively have taken place at its Allahabad Branch in Uttar Pradesh. The Bank has called for the explanation of the officials responsible for the lapses inorder to take suitable action as warranted.